

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Northern Rail Extension

**Lead Federal Agency:** Surface Transportation Board

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Jeff Bruno, (2) EPA Lead: Matt LaCroix/Gayle Martin (404), (3) Corps Lead: Ellen Lyons

<p>This project involves the construction of a new 80-mile rail line from North Pole to Delta Junction. The federal Surface Transportation Board completed an environmental impact statement (EIS) in 2009 and issued a Record of Decision in January 2010. EPA expressed concerns re: the purpose and need. Phase I of the project includes the construction of a new bridge across the Tanana River. In December 2010 the EPA declared the Tanana River an Aquatic Resource of National Significance (ARNI) and concluded that the project does not comply with the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) guidelines and would have "substantial and unacceptable adverse effects on the Tanana River." Under a memorandum of agreement with the Army Corp of Engineers, EPA exercised their right to review the permit, but agreed in early June 2011 to allow the permit to go forward.</p>	<p>Construction of Phase 1 has begun and they hope to begin Phase II in the next fiscal year. Limited resource agency involvement at this point. ARRC has announced that navigation in the bridge area is prohibited until April 2014.</p> <p>Delays with Section 9 Permit (approval from US Coast Guard (USCG) for bridge construction) across the Tanana River have the RR concerned about project schedule. The USCG has identified this as a "high priority" but it is unclear to what that means as far as timing with the section 9 permit and could possibly delay the schedule if not issued in the near future.</p>	<p>Numerous permit mods (small acreages) in recent months for 2-year bridge construction.</p>	<p>Northern Rail is still working on segment 1 and has not received all the funding to start segment 2 and has ask OPMP to suspend funding until they receive more funding and start on segment 2.</p>
---	--	---	--

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Port Mackenzie Rail Extension

**Lead Federal Agency:** Surface Transportation Board

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Jeff Bruno, (2) EPA Lead: Matt LaCroix (404), (3) Corps Lead: Ben Soiseth

<p>This project proposes the construction of a 30 – 45 mile rail extension line from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley to Port MacKenzie in order to transport freight from Interior Alaska.</p> <p>The Mat-Su Borough and the State are working towards transferring the DNR land to the Borough and the easements are the next step within that process.</p> <p>Land transfers have both completed their administrative process to handle transferring the State land to the Borough through RADS. The transfer will not happen until the as built for the project is complete.</p>		<p>The federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) released the Final EIS on March 25, 2011. The STB released issued the Record of Decision (ROD) on November 21, 2011.</p> <p>On January 26th, 2012, the FAA denied the Railroad access across the Big Lake VORTAC site. This is a State lease in which FAA has the right to deny incompatible uses. The project will likely need to find an alternative route around this tract of land. No alternative was evaluated for this scenario in the NEPA process.</p>	<p>Current efforts are being focused on modifying and updating ADF&amp;G and DNR TWUP permits, satisfying the Mitigation Measures within the ROD, and fulfilling requirements of Programmatic Agreement with SHPO.</p> <p>SCRO issued a second EEA and construction for segments 1,3,4</p> <p>Currently MLW (Survey unit) along with DOT is processing the section line vacation application</p>
--	--	---	--

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Izembek Land Exchange EIS

**Lead Federal Agency:** USFWS

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Samantha Carroll, (2) DEC Lead: Gary Mendivil, (3) USFWS Lead: Stephanie Brady, (4) EPA Leads: Jennifer Curtis (NEPA), (5) Matt LaCroix (404), (6) Corps Lead: Heather Boyer

<p>Congress has approved the land exchange, but an EIS for the land exchange needs to be done for a single lane gravel road connecting the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay. USFWS (URS as contractor) has completed the FEIS but has yet to issue the Record of Decision (ROD). Secretary of the Interior will need to do a public interest determination if the land exchange is in the public interest.</p> <p>Cooperating Agencies: COE Federal Highway Administration/WFL SOA</p> <p>King Cove Corp: Aleutians East Borough, City of King Cove, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, and the Native Village of Belkofski.</p>	<p>December 23, 2013, Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell issued ROD/PID selecting "No Action" alternative.</p> <p>On January 15, 2014, Senator Begich introduced a new Izembek road bill and the King Cove group requested reconsideration of the ROD.</p> <p>In a letter dated January 17, 2014, Senator Murkowski, in concert with the King Cove group, also requested the Secretary reconsider her decision to reject the land exchange.</p> <p>No decision from Secretary Jewell on the matter.</p> <p>On March 25, 2014, the King Cove Group met with Sec. Jewell in DC. At that meeting it was agreed that the KCG would provide the Secretary with information addressing issues and comments raised at the meeting. In turn the Secretary would respond to the KCG's January 15, 2014 letter requesting reconsideration of her Record of Decision on the EIS. The KCG provided the information on April 15, 2014. As far as I know Secretary Jewell has not fulfilled her commitment to respond to the KCG.</p>	<p>On August 13, 2014, Secretary Jewell sent letters to the Governor, King Cove Group and Sen Murkowski reaffirming her denial of the land exchange.</p> <p>On August 15, 2014, the DOI filed a motion to dismiss Plaintiff's (SOA and King Cove Groups) claims under rules of Civil Procedures (12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6)).</p> <p>On April 7, 2014 the State of Alaska, Department of Law filed notice of intent to sue the Department of Interior regarding the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge R.S. 2477 rights-of-way near Cold Bay, AK.</p>
---	---	--

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
			King Cove Group & the SOA as an intervener-Plaintiff filed a complaint in federal court on 6/3/14 asking for the ROD to be invalidated and prevented from taking effect.

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Knik Arm Crossing

**Lead Federal Agency:** Federal Highway Authority

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Sara Taylor, (2) EPA Lead: Matt LaCroix (404), (3) Corps Lead: TBD

<p>The proposed project would build a 2.7 mile vehicular toll bridge across Knik Arm b/w the Port of Anchorage area and the Port Mackenzie area, including 19 miles of road to support the bridge's accessibility. This project is being developed to meet the current and projected transportation needs of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough and was identified as a high priority infrastructure project by the Governor in September 2003.</p> <p>The U.S. DOT, FHWA, and Alaska DOT are the lead agencies for this project. Final design and construction could be completed as early as 2018. Planners are currently working on obtaining properties and working with contractors scheduling surveys for the as-built completion.</p>		<p>NMFS issued a Section 10 No Jeopardy finding re: Cook Inlet Beluga Whales in November 2010.</p> <p>FEIS was signed in December 2007 and ROD was signed in December 2010.</p> <p>Muni and USCG permits contingent on 404 permit.</p> <p>404 public comment period closed December 2011.</p> <p>Army Corps 404 permit decision delayed due to NMFS consultation issues (was due Sept 2013). File has been closed pending MMPA authorization.</p> <p>LOA rulemaking pending since 2010. As of July 2014, Draft Federal Register notice is being vetted internally.</p>	<p>Section 401 Water Quality Cert issued by ADEC in September 2012.</p> <p>Submerged tideland easement from Southcentral Region issued in February 2013.</p> <p>During FY '15, the Knik Arm Bridge &amp; Toll Authority will be assisting Alaska DOT in assuming management of the project, pursuant to SB 13 and HB 23.</p>
--	--	--	--

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Ambler Mining District Access

**Lead Federal Agency:** COE

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Marie Steele, (2) AIDEA Lead: Mark Davis, (3) DOT Lead: Ryan Andersen, (4) Corps Lead: Jason Berkner (5) EPA Lead: Jennifer Curtis (NEPA), (6) Gayle Martin (404),

<p>The State of Alaska is considering the potential costs, benefits, and investment opportunities associated with construction and operation of an all-season, controlled-access industrial road connecting the Ambler Mining District to the Dalton Highway. The proposed road would cross through the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve, a conservation system unit established under the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA).</p> <p>ANILCA Section 201, establishing Gates of the Arctic, anticipated the need for this road and included a specific provision for the Secretaries of Interior and Transportation to grant a right-of-way for this road.</p> <p>The project proponent is the Alaska Industrial development and Export Authority (AIDEA).</p> <p>Funding for FY14: \$8.5M</p>	<p>Project currently in pre-application phase consulting with federal, state and local entities. Community meetings are being held to update area residents on project status.</p> <p>Proponent plans to submit application to COE late-summer 2014.</p>	<p>AIDEA has submitted the wetlands delineation to the ACOE and is preparing to submit permit applications to initiate the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review on the proposed road. AIDEA is preparing a consolidated permit application pursuant to ANILCA Title XI (SF 299).</p>	<p>Project is working with ADF&amp;G, DOT and UAF on baseline environmental studies.</p>
--	--	---	--

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Juneau Access Road

**Lead Federal Agency:** COE

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Kyle Moselle, (2) DEC Lead: NA, (3) DOT Lead: Deborah Holman, (4) EPA Lead: Jennifer Curtis (NEPA), (5) Becky Fauver (404), (6) Corps Lead: Randy Vigil

On September 14, 2011 the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) announced that it will begin the process with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to complete a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Juneau Access Improvements project. The SEIS will fully evaluate a stand-alone alternative that improves service in Lynn Canal using existing AMHS assets. The supplemental EIS will also update the Final EIS reasonable alternatives and will address changes in applicable laws, regulations, and approvals. DOT&PF anticipates the SEIS process will take approximately two years, with a draft SEIS released in late 2012, a final SEIS released in mid 2013, and a new Record of Decision (ROD) approved later that year. DOT&PF has contracted with the firm HDR Alaska, Inc. to prepare the SEIS and many of the required supporting documents.	PDSEIS for Cooperating Agency review February 2014.  DSEIS-September 15, 2014	EPA submitted comments on the Draft SEIS in November 2014.	
---	---	--	--

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
--------------------	----------	---------	-------

**Project Title:** Arctic Deep Draft Port Feasibility Study and EIS

**Lead Federal Agency:** COE Civil Works

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Ed Fogels, (2) DEC Lead : , (3) EPA Leads: Jennifer Curtis (NEPA), (4) Matt LaCroix (404), (5) Chris Meade (Ocean Dumping), (6) Corps Lead: Loren Baxter

Project to study and evaluate impacts of potential deep draft port facility in three locations on the Seward Peninsula.	Draft EIS is expected in Spring-Summer 2014.	EPA submitted scoping comments to the Corps in December 2013, indicating interest in serving as a Cooperating Agency on the EIS. MOU was signed in July, 2014.  EPA plans to de-designate ocean disposal site(s) (Nome East and Nome West) under MPRSA, which is included as a categorical exclusion under EPA NEPA regulations.	
---	--	--	--